

Applied Research Paper (CP 8990)

School of City and Regional Planning

Georgia Institute of Technology

Fall 2026 + Spring 2027

Instructor: Gregory Randolph

Course Description

The applied research paper is a two-semester individual research project on some subject related to a student's concentration within the city and regional planning curriculum. The final report should be of professional quality (e.g., a professional report, publishable professional journal article, or some other format). Any topic can be chosen that is agreeable both to the student and advisor. There are no specific requirements related to the type of study that could be undertaken.

The following are examples:

- Case studies
- Surveys and data analysis studies
- Computer programs, documentation & report
- Analytical studies and investigations
- Analysis of local planning issues
- Development of plans, ordinances, policies

The research and final report must be an individual effort. If any work on the project is done off campus as part of a group effort or not under the direct supervision of an advisor, the student must provide documentation to verify, to the satisfaction of the advisor, that submitted work was an individual effort.

One of the major purposes of this paper is to apply the planning techniques and procedures covered in the City and Regional Planning curriculum and within the area of concentration. Thus, each paper should include a section dealing with the planning aspects and process related to the topic.

Learning Objective

- To apply the research and planning techniques and procedures covered in the City and Regional Planning curriculum within the student's area of concentration.

Assignments and Evaluation

The Fall semester grade will be based on the following deliverables and weights:

Brief proposal on 2-3 topics	10%
Detailed workplan and bibliography	30%
Prospectus	50%
Participation and peer feedback	10%

The Spring semester grade will be based on the following deliverables and weights:

Results section	25%
Full draft paper	25%
Peer review	10%
Final paper	35%
Participation and peer feedback	5%

Grading Scale

Grade	Minimum Points Required
A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%

Attendance and Participation

This course has no fixed schedule of meetings. Students will be required to participate in group meetings with the instructor 2-3 times per semester. These meetings will be scheduled based on mutual availability at the start of each semester.

Required Materials

There are no required materials for this course.

Academic Integrity

Assignments submitted by individual students for evaluation by the instructor must adhere to the academic integrity guidelines established by the Institute. Academic integrity violations of the Georgia Tech Honor Code include: unauthorized access, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, false claims of performance, grade alteration, deliberate falsification, forgery, and distortion. For details on the specific meaning of any of these terms, please refer to the Institute [honor code](#).

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Accommodations

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also email me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.